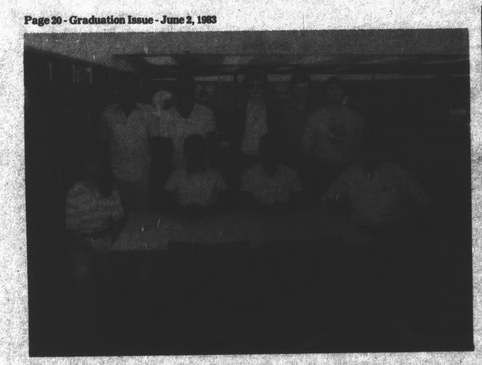
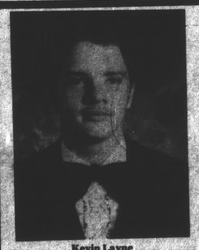


MEMBERS OF THE CLASS of 1983 at ACHS who will enter the U.S. Armed services include (front, from left) Tammy Davis, Air Force; Charles Walker, Army; Derrick Preston, Army; Wayne Hawkins, Navy; (Back) Robert Jackson, Army; Greg Franklin, Army; David Page, Air Force; Darryl Tucker, Marine; Tim Williams, Marine.



Kevin Layne

Well done, Kevin - - and we congratulate you and all the grads of 1983

TOLLEY'S MARKET

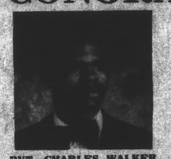
Offering Full Line Fresh Meats, Produce, Staples, gasoline and oil

248-6147

Hwy. 460 PAMPLIN

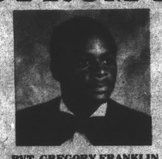
GRADS you're super

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE ARMY



PVT. CHARLES WALKER enlisted in the Army Delayed Entry Program on April 28, 1983. Pvt. Walker will receive his AIT (Technical Training) as a Patient Care Specialist in San Antonia, Texas. Pvt. Walker qualified for the Army College Fund and has $30,000 available to him for his college education. Pvt. Walker is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walker, of Rt. 1, Pamplin, Va.

PVT. DERRICK PRESTON enlisted in the Army Delayed Entry Program on May 3, 1983. Pvt. Preston will be in the Transportation Field where he will receive his training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. This school will be 16 weeks. Pvt. Preston is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Willis Preston, of Rt. 3, Appomattox, Va.



PVT. GREGORY FRANKLIN enlisted in the Army's Delayed Entry Program on May 3, 1983. Pvt. Franklin will be in the Transportation Field and will receive 16 weeks training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. Pvt. Franklin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carter Wayne Franklin, of Rt. 3, Appomattox.

PVT. ROBERT JACKSON enlisted in the Army Delayed Entry Program on December 28, 1982. Pvt. Jackson will receive 13-weeks training in Combat Engineering at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. Pvt. Jackson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wallace Jackson of Rt. 1, Pamplin, Va.

KEVIN FERGUSON AND RUBY SMITH received the United States Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award. Kevin's and Ruby's outstanding athletic ability, combined with their scholastic achievement earned them this award. This is the first time Appomattox students have received this award.

ARMY

BE ALL YOU CAN BE

THE LYNCHBURG ARMY RECRUITING STATION HAS PAID $1,406,000.00 IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: DONNIE L. CHARLESTON, Staff Sergeant
2600 Memorial Ave., Tarkington Blvd.
Lynchburg, Va.
Office (804) 845-7241
Home: (804) 847-2815

TIMES-VIRGINIAN

AUG 1983 VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

Single-Copy Price: 25 Cents

Volume 93 - Number 23 | Deadline: 2 p.m. Tuesday | Appomattox, (Va.) - Times-Virginian - June 9, 1983 | Phone: 352-8215 | One Section - 12 Pages

Storm Damage

MONDAY EVENING'S GULLEYWASHER produced torrential rains, hail, and wind strong enough to move a machine shed housing two tractors and numerous pieces of other farm equipment at the H. T. Barger farm. Louise Barger watched from her kitchen window as the shed moved backward leaving the machinery exposed. The amount of damage was undetermined at press time. (Photo by Frances Paulette)

Bear drops into town, creates uproar at Plaza

By BILL SHERROD

A black bear wandered into the Town of Appomattox Tuesday morning, startling shoppers and merchants in the Triangle Plaza Shopping Center and halting traffic briefly before disappearing into the woods across from Top Treat restaurant.

The bizarre incident, which triggered a barrage of phone calls to the Times-Virginian newspaper office, occured around 11 a.m. Tuesday.

The animal, which was sighted Monday evening near the old court house of Route 24, was spotted by workers in the Route 460 Dairy Queen as it attempted to climb trees in the triangular grass island where Route 24 forks into Route 460.

"He looked like he was peeping at us through the forks in one of the trees," said Leota Wright, who works at Dairy Queen. "He stepped into the road for a moment, then he headed back toward Farmers Bank and into the Triangle Plaza parking lot," added Evelyn Austin, who also works at Dairy Queen. Wright, Austin, and fellow employees Dorothy Giles and Amy Glenn watched the animal as it made its way with great consternation through the maze of parked cars and shoppers in the Plaza parking lot.

Ruth Caldwell looked up from her work in the drive-through window of Farmers Bank to see unexpected pedestrians in the grassy triangle. "I thought, It's a bear," Caldwell recalls. She and her fellow employees watched as it "hugged a tree" then started across Route 460 only to be frightened by a passing car and turn around, heading toward the Plaza parking lot.

The bear cut diagonally through the parking lot from Farmers Bank toward Revco, then angled back, strolling by the store fronts in the shopping center.

The animal cleared the sidewalks of pedestrians in front of Food World, and startled two men working on a scaffold in front of the food store. At one point it tried to go through the plate glass front of the store. But it did not break the glass,and it proceeded down the sidewalk.

Ruby Williamson, manager of Popes Family Center, said two women had just checked out their merchandise and exited through the front door when they came running back into the store shouting, 'It's a bear!"

"It had walked right up to the sidewalk," Williamson says, "A group of people gathered and started shouting at the bear. It was cringing in the shrubbery at the corner of the building. It finally went down the hill and cut around in front of Judy's Beauty Salon and Jim Nolen's real estate office."

Cassius Fleshman was mowing grass in the minature golf range by Top Treat, when he heard quite a stir up the hill at the corner of Popes.

"I looked up and saw all these people hollering, then I saw this bear come running down the slope. He ran right along in front of the store (on the lower level of the Plaza), then went across the street and ran up in thewoods. A car had to stop for him when he was crossing the street."

Fleshman said the incongruous scene...a mass of people shouting hysterically and a terrified bear running for its life on a sunny day at Triangle Plaza..startled him momentarily.

Dennis Wilkerson, Appomattox County animal control officer, arrived on the scene as the bear was entering the woods across from Top Treat. He followed the animal on foot through the woods. It came out of the woods at Bible Baptist Church, crossed Route 26, then proceeded west through woods and fields just off Route 460. The last time Wilkerson saw the animal, it was behind the Amoco service station on Route 460, still headed away from town.

"I wanted to make sure he headed out of town, instead of turning around and coming back where he might get hit by a car, Wilkerson said.

"I've chased a lot of animals here," he added,"but this is the first time I ever chased bears."

The animal was described by witnesses as "cute", and "adorable" and one person overheard a spectator say he wanted to try to catch the bear. Other people, mostly those not in buildings or cars when the bear came by, were less enthusiastic about the animal's appearance. Most of the witnesses said the bear appeared to stand slightly more than three feet high at the shoulders on all fours, and estimated its weight at anywhere from 150 to 300 pounds. Wilkerson said the animal appeared to weigh between 150 and 200 pounds.

Capt. J. R. Bellamy of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries in Richmond said the bear "shouldn't bother anyone", and should leave the area soon. "He shouldn't bother any pets or livestock," Bellamy said. "People should just leave him alone if they see him. Don't try to catch him or feed him. He's more afraid of people than people are afraid of him.

George Abbitt honored here

By FRANCES H. PAULETTE

A special session of court convened on Saturday morning, June 4 at 11 a.m. in the Appomattox Court House, the Honorable John A. Snoddy, Jr., Judge, presiding. At this time a portrait of the Honorable George Francis Abbitt, Jr., Judge, Tenth Judicial Circuit Court, State of Virginia, was unveiled, where it will hang with the portraits of other prominent men of Appomattox County.

The portrait, painted by local artist, Ed Hopkinson, was unveiled by 12-year-old Sadie Quarrier and seven-year-old Alexander Quarrier, grandchildren of Judge Abbitt and his first wife, the late Josephine Cundiff Abbitt.

Guest speaker for the occasion was former Governor of Virginia, Mills Godwin of Richmond.

A son of the late George Francis Abbitt, Sr., an Appomattox County native, and the late Otway Norman Abbitt of Lynchburg, Judge Abbitt was born in Newport News on August 6, 1906.

Although he was born outside of this county, Judge Abbitt considers himself "an Appomattox boy." His family moved back to this area before he was old enough to begin public school.

When George Abbitt entered school for the first time, it was at Hollywood School, a one-room facility approximately two miles southeast of Vera. Little did he dream that someday he would become a prominent lawyer and then a judge, but someone else made this prediction...

"When I was a young man," said Judge Abbitt, "there was a restaurant here in Appomattox, located on 460, The Bandana Cabin. One day I went there for lunch. One of the women who worked there was a fortune teller. She read my palm and consulted the cards to foretell what the future held for me."

"Young man," she said, "you will someday become active in government. I see a bright future for you in that area." And the young boy, who, by his own admission, was a "bit on the sickly side" when he was little, walked into the future of which the fortune teller spoke.

"When I was about five or six," Abbitt said, "I had some health problems and I didn't get to start to school at the usual age and by the time I was ready to enter school at age nine, my younger brother Watt was ready to begin school also. Consequently Watt and I not only entered school together, we went through college and law school together."

"Yes sir," said Watt Abbitt with a smile, "George was older than I was when we started to school; in fact, I was ten years old before I realized I didn't have to call George 'Mister'."

Watt and George entered Hollywood School, a one-room facility, attended for a short time, moved to Rugby School and finally to Vera School, a facility of several rooms, as soon as construction was completed. Vera School even had a high school program and the Abbitt boys attended three years of high school there. However, when it was time for them to enter the senior year, they came to what was then Appomattox Agricultural High School, graduating in 1925.

Coming from a family of hard workers, both Abbitt boys worked on the family farm and later in the family store in Vera, saving money toward their college education.

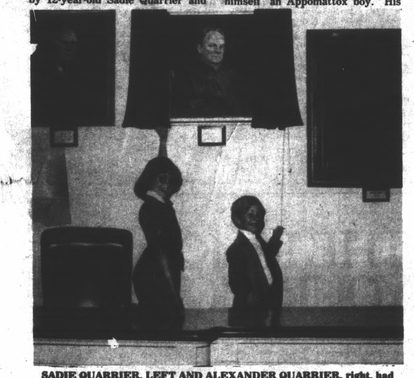
Following high school, there was the University of Richmond facing these two boys from Appomattox County but they were ready for it.

George Abbitt has loved music all of his life and today plays several instruments, regularly participating in the group called The Piney Mountain Music Makers. So, when they went off to college it was only natural that they take the musical instruments. When it was 'hazing' time at college, George, with all his musical talent, played and Watt had to dance, whether he wanted to do so or not. At this particular time, Watt wasn't paying much attention to making music. But, when the Abbitt boys came home for the Christmas holidays, Watt had suddenly developed an interest in music. He had found out that playing 'paid off' so to speak.

"Why, we played for dances all during the Christmas holidays when we came home," commented Watt. "A lot of people had dances in their homes and we played; they passed the hat and we made a little money."

Both of them good students, the Abbitt boys breezed through the University of Richmond completing three years before entering the T. C. Williams School of Law, another three years of hard work. They received their degrees in 1931 and headed for Appomattox where they would begin the practice of law.

(Continued on Page 7)



SADIE QUARRIER, LEFT AND ALEXANDER QUARRIER, right, had the honor of pulling the cords that unveiled the portrait of their grandfather, The Honorable George Francis Abbitt, Jr. . on Saturday morning, June 4 at the Appomattox Court House.

Local FFA is best

The work of the Appomattox County FFA Chapter has been judged best in Southside Area in the Building Our American Communities Program.

Building Our American Communities is a special project of the National FFA Foundation sponsored by Lillie Endowment, Inc. in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

It is designed to recognize the accomplishments of local FFA chapters which make an effort to determine community needs and assist in both long and short-range plans for community development.

The work of the Appomattox County Senior FFA Chapter will be considered along with four other area winners for the state award. The state award will be a feature of the State FFA Convention in Blacksburg, June 14-17.

Lions Club meets tonight

The Appomattox Lions Club will meet tonight (Thursday) at 6:45 p.m. at the Country Fare Restaurant.

A representative of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries will be present to explain the state's successful striped bass spawning program, and discuss the striper fishery in Central Virginia Lakes. All members are urged to be present.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

This week we started off with not "just another Monday." School's out, and that made a difference. Creates a change in routine for most homes and even those not effected miss seeing the buses go by.

* * *

Did you forget? Monday, June 6, was the anniversary of our armed forces landing in France in WW II. Among the fallen heroes was Johnny Bingham, of Appomattox, and Ivanhoe Bryant, Cullen.

* * *

Last week I mentioned a motorcycle coming up alongside my car at a stop light and a doghouse and live dog behind the driver. Have found out that the motorcycle driver was John Hickey and the dog was "Stuffy." I said the dog was a terrier. Wrong. Pekinese. Eight years old. Mr. and Mrs. Hickey live near Evergreen and are planning a two week trip to Colorado Springs. Yes, "Stuffy" will go along.

One does not read the Bible without profit. I opened up a Bible a few mornings ago and the pages opened at II Kings, Chapter 6. The first verses told of an incident I had never heard and I was telling about it to a valued friend who is a minister and to another valued friend who is a teacher. Both responded instantly to the reference and knew it well. The minister has a sermon on it and the teacher has used the incident in classrooms. So, take a moment and read about the case of the floating axe.

* * *

A veteran gardener told me Saturday that he had the best garden prospect ever. And that seems to be general. Hope it turns out to be a great year all over. My observation is that more plants than ever have been sold at local business places. Flower plants as well. Nor have I ever seen so many roses in bloom as right now. And I must tell one on myself. Aim to keep fresh flowers in the house and water them regularly to make'em last. Noticed one vase that was dry as a bone. Filled it with water and discovered 'twas an artifical flower. Ah yes, and my magnolia finally came out with five blooms. And guess who? Saw Pete, the terrapin, in my garden Saturday. Have forgotten why I named him Pete but he has been with us about five years. Seemed pert and was on a scouting trip between the tomato plants and the sunflowers.

Thanks to whoever it was who left at my front door copies of The Washington Post and the New York Post. And thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hudson for bringing the Sunday issue of The Concord Tribune, Concord, N.C. They were part of a crowd of some 100,000 to witness the 24th annual World 600 Grand National Auto Race.

* *

Heavens to Betsy, seems that I've hardly made a dent in the notepad, but thanks for reading and hope to see you next time.

A Dirty Crime

WORKERS AT THE APPOMATTOX County Sanitary Landfill returned to their jobs the Tuesday after Memorial Day to find a large pile of rubble heaped up outside the gate to the dump. The refuse, which included tree limbs and a variety of other illegal materials, was placed directly in front of a sign outlining what materials can not be placed in the green county dump boxes. Much of the refuse in the heap was material which was, according to the sign, clearly illegal. County Building Inspector Bill Caldwell said that if such actions continue, he will seek summonses for the persons breaking the law. (Photo by Bill Sherrod)

JUN